

Abstract

A system and method for authenticating and authorizing use of physical equipment. The system includes a conventional computer network having a central computer gateway, at least one system-access detector connected to the central computer gateway and having a unique location identification, and at least one client identifier coupled with the physical equipment and having a unique client identification. The method includes providing a wireless system for communication between a client identification unit and at least one system-access detector connected to a central computer gateway of a wide-area computer network; connecting the client identification unit with the control system of the physical equipment; obtaining operator identification at the client identification unit; transmitting authentication and identification of the client identification unit to the central computer gateway; transmitting data between the computer network and the central computer gateway; and permitting activation and monitoring of the physical equipment connecting the controller board with the control system of the physical equipment; enabling secure authentication and identification of the controller board; communicating authentication and identification of the controller board to the computer network; transmitting data between the computer network and the controller board; and, permitting activation and monitoring of the physical equipment.